



## Confined Feeding Operation

### What is a Confined Feeding Operation?

- A Confined Feeding Operation (CFO) is a farm on which producers raise animals in confined spaces such as lots, pens, ponds or sheds – with less than 50 percent vegetation – for more than 45 days out of the year.
- There are about 3,000 regulated CFOs in Indiana.
- Indiana regulates CFOs that contain at least 300 cattle, 600 swine or sheep or 30,000 fowl.
- Cattle, swine, sheep, chickens, ducks and turkeys are all raised in Indiana CFOs.

### Why does IDEM regulate CFOs?

- If the manure produced by animals in a confined space is handled improperly, it can cause significant environmental damage to Indiana's waterways.

### What are the benefits of CFOs?

- Animals raised in CFOs provide food and clothing for Hoosiers.
- These animals also produce manure, which is stored in pits, lagoons, tanks and other storage devices. The manure is then applied as fertilizer on fields.
- When stored and applied properly, this manure is a beneficial, natural source for crop nutrition. This practice also lessens the need for fuel and other natural resources that are used in the production of commercial fertilizer.

### What are the environmental impacts of improperly handling and storing CFO animal waste?

#### Water:

- Manure contains high level of nitrogen, which lowers the levels of dissolved oxygen in water.
- Dissolved oxygen is one of the essential components of good water quality; lack of it compromises the health of fish and other aquatic life.
- Manure also contains phosphorus, which can lead to elevated nutrient levels in water, a cause of algae blooms and water quality degradation.

#### Soil:

- Although manure is a great natural fertilizer, applying too much of it on to fields can adversely impact soil productivity and crop production.

### How are IDEM and livestock producers protecting Indiana's environment?

- On March 10, 2002, Indiana's Confined Feeding Operation rule took effect. The rule provides IDEM clearer authority to address potential threats to water quality.
- The rule, more than three years in the making, requires CFO operators, among other measures, to:
  - Incorporate protective designs in the construction of new facilities
  - Submit a manure management plan to IDEM,
  - Apply manure only at rates that match the nitrogen needs of soil and only at appropriate times and locations,
  - Record all land applications of manure,
  - Conduct self-inspections of their CFO,
  - Develop a spill management plans and
  - Monitor nutrient levels of soil and manure.

### Where can I get more information?

Contact IDEM's Director of Agricultural Relations Kristin Whittington at (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-8587, or by e-mail: [kawhitti@dem.state.in.us](mailto:kawhitti@dem.state.in.us). Information is also available on IDEM's Web site at: [www.IN.gov/idem/land/cfo](http://www.IN.gov/idem/land/cfo).